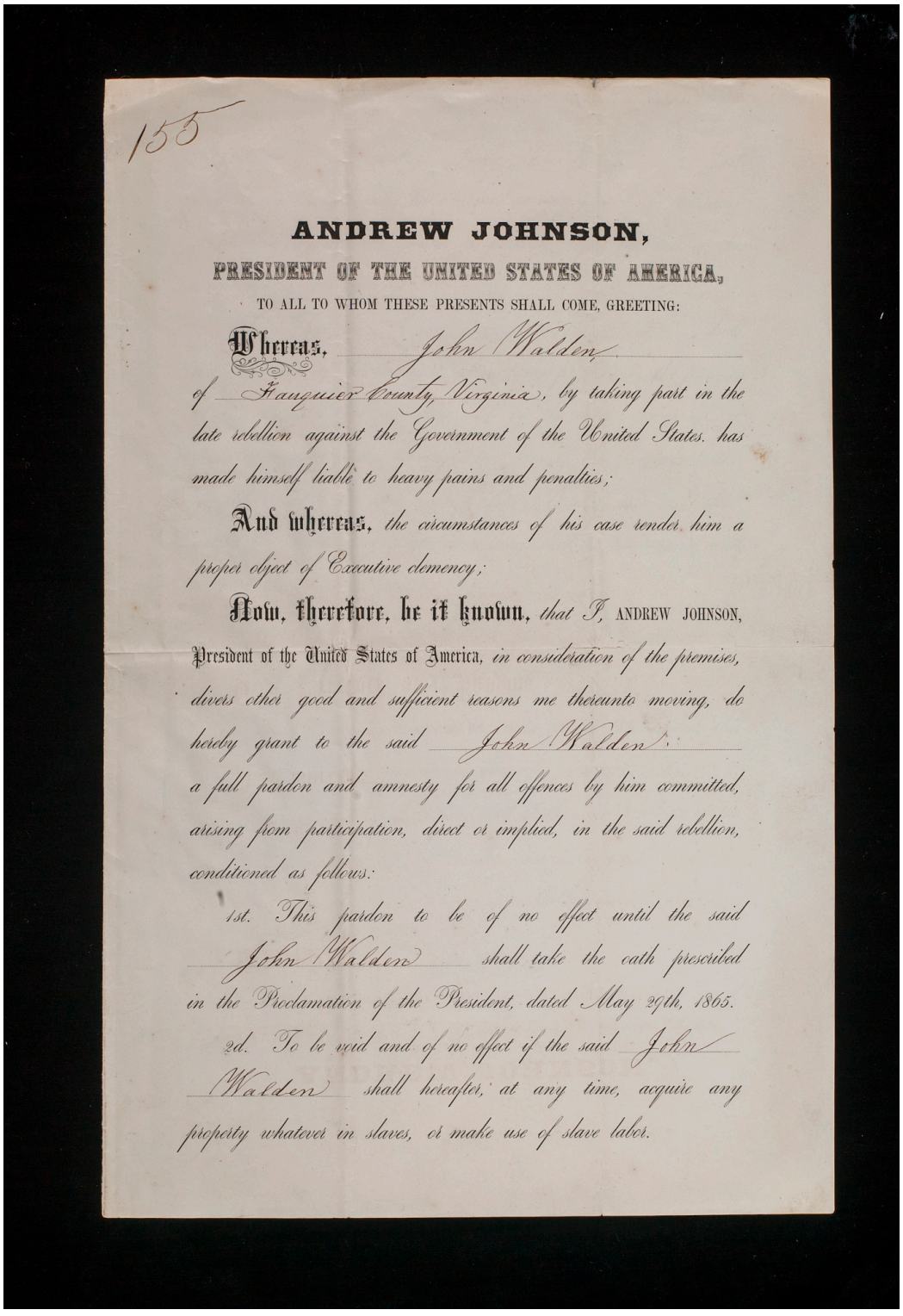
Loyal Voters

After the Civil War, former Confederate officers were stripped of their political rights, including the rights to vote and to hold office, and required to take oaths of loyalty to the United States to regain them. In 1868 the Fourteenth Amendment made loyalty to the United States a requirement for voting when it specified only two reasons for disenfranchising a citizen: participation in rebellion or other unspecified crime.



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ANDREW JOHNSON,

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, GREETING:

Whereas, John Walden,

of Fauquier County, Virginia, by taking part in the late rebellion against the Government of the United States, has made himself liable to heavy pains and penalties;

And whereas, the circumstances of his case render him a proper object of Executive clemency;

Now, therefore, be it known, that I, ANDREW JOHNSON, President of the United States of America, in consideration of the premises, divers other good and sufficient reasons me thereunto moving, do hereby grant to the said John Walden a full pardon and amnesty for all offences by him committed, arising from participation, direct or implied, in the said rebellion, conditioned as follows:

1st. This pardon to be of no effect until the said John Walden shall take the oath prescribed in the Proclamation of the President, dated May 29th, 1865.

2d. To be void and of no effect if the said John Walden shall hereafter, at any time, acquire any property whatever in slaves, or make use of slave labor.

Presidential pardon granted to John Walden, 1865
Gift of Gilbert B. Walden

View object record </collections/nmah_503270>

Hours & Admission

Open every day, except December 25, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Admission is free and no tickets are required.

Location & Contact

1300 Constitution Ave NW,
Washington, DC 20560 <https://www.google.com/maps/place/smithsonian+national+museum+of+american+history/@38.8912835,-77.0322449,17z>

Contact Information </about/contact>

Our mission is to empower people to create a just and compassionate future by exploring, preserving, and sharing the complexity of our past.

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